

STATE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary – July 15, 2003

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- 9:30 Bob Schille called the meeting to order. Following introductions, and a few suggested changes, SWAC members approved the May 20, 2003 meeting summary.

Cullen presented a plaque to Rod Hansen thanking him for his good service on the SWAC. Bill Reed will fill in for Rod in the interim. Teresa Jennings will be Rod's permanent replacement.

9:40 Septage Management Plan: Marv Vialle

Last September, the Septage Management Advisory Committee was established. Statewide meetings were held from September 2002 through May 2003. Ecology hired a consultant (Paragon) to facilitate these meetings. The committee came up with objectives/strategies (see handout from meeting).

The purpose of the committee was to provide reliable, long-term systems for the management of septage that protects public health and the environment and are economically feasible and publicly accepted. The committee consisted of: pumpers, land appliers, PUDs, JHDs, city/county staff, DOH, Puget Sound Action Team, EPA and Ecology. Ecology wrote and issued a consensus plan in May 2003. Ecology will be meeting with additional representatives of stakeholder groups to pursue funding mechanisms and other key issues.

10:30 Landfill Mercury Testing: Kyle Dorsey

Ecology took the initiative to do a blind study of landfills to look for mercury emissions. Ecology hired a contractor (Frontier Geoscience) to take samples from various landfills (we received permission from landfill owners). All field work was done by June 30, 2003. The findings will be put in a report which is expected about the end of August 2003. Since there has been only a very limited evaluation of landfills as a source of mercury emissions, we really do not know what to expect in terms of the results. Ecology's intent is not to go after landfills that test positive for significant Mercury emissions (if any), but we would use that information to intensify education to the public, letting them know the repercussions (health threat) of improperly disposing products containing mercury. This would help in strengthening the overall implementation of the Chemical Action Plan for mercury which grew out of our state PBT initiative.

11:00 Beyond Waste: Cheryl Smith

Four all-day Beyond Waste Subcommittee meetings were held in Seattle. Final notes from those meetings will be sent to SWAC soon. Cheryl mentioned the process went well. SWAC sub-committee members were very prepared to discuss the 5 key initiatives being proposed, which are:

1. Eliminating waste from industrial sources
2. Building a closed-loop organics cycle
3. Making green building the norm
4. Eliminating moderate risk waste

5. Establishing performance indicators and data systems to measure progress

Two additional issues were presented to the Subcommittee. They are:

1. Addressing closed and abandoned landfills
2. Local government funding of non-disposal activities

Some themes that came out of the Subcommittee meetings are:

1. Beyond Waste project/vision is moving in the right direction (although very ambitious)
2. Need to build more support and “political will” to be successful, including a broader range of partners
3. The five key initiatives are important ones, but there are other important issues that need to also be addressed.
4. Recommended actions and key initiatives need to be prioritized, with more specificity on the actions being recommended.
5. Building a closed-loop cycle for technical, or non-organic materials (metals, glass, etc) should be included
6. Carefully consider impacts on business and view business sector as a partner.
7. For this effort to be successful, education needs to be a critical element.
8. Washington State government must lead by example.
9. The plan needs to be flexible—one size does not fit all.
10. Eliminating self-haul may be a way to move forward.

Ecology is currently working on:

- Reformatting and refining five key initiatives (for better reading);
- Incorporating Subcommittee input;
- Prioritizing recommended actions and adding more specificity;
- Additional research on: incentives, self-haul, performance measure initiative;
- Soliciting more input, including more peer reviews of organics and green building; and
- Broadening education and marketing of Beyond Waste concepts.

Cheryl will continue to keep in touch with the SWAC. The Subcommittee wants to meet again after the initiatives have been prioritized. The Beyond Waste (draft) plan will be distributed for review in early 2004. Revisions will be made based on feedback; then the final plan will be distributed.

Concerns from SWAC members and/or interested persons concerning Beyond Waste Plan:

- The Beyond Waste Plan is a 30-year plan, but with no funding or implementation schedule in place.
- Plan doesn't seem to be understandable to the general public
- Need careful consideration of eliminating self-haul, maybe call it "reducing self haul".
- Need to elaborate on what is Beyond Waste.
- Need key people to support Beyond Waste (other than Ecology), such as Governor's Office, other key government people and stakeholders.
- As we change the way we manage materials, we need to be adaptable to meeting these goals.
- Need more integration of hazardous and solid waste.
- Need to target specific waste streams
- Need to consider elaborating on the Beyond Waste title.

12:30 Meeting Adjourned

In Attendance:	
SWAC Members:	Interested Persons:
Dennis Durbin	Bill Dean
Gene Eckhardt	Linda Dennis
Rob Guttridge	Pat Dunn
Rod Hansen	Craig Swanson
Pete Keller	
Craig Lorch	
Brad Lovaas	
Jim Matsuyama	
Bob Schille	
Tim Croll	
Sally Toteff	